



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

July 29, 2005

ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL SENTENCED TO 210 MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT

Jacksonville, Florida - Today Senior U.S. District Judge Howell W. Melton, sentenced Rufus Hall to 17 years' and six months' imprisonment for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Rufus Hall pled guilty on April 29, 2005.

According to court documents, Rufus Hall was in possession of a Browning .380 caliber pistol when he was arrested in St. Johns County. Mr. Hall, age 55, has 13 prior felony convictions including five prior convictions for armed robbery. Mr. Hall has spent the majority of his adult life in prison. He was incarcerated for most of the 1980's and spent the entire decade of the 1990's in prison. Today's sentence is the longest Mr. Hall has ever received.

The case was investigated by the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Frank Talbot.

The case represents the culmination of a cooperative effort between the United States Attorney's Office, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the State Attorney's Office for the Seventh Judicial Circuit, the Attorney General's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. United States Attorney Paul I. Perez is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.